

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-26 are pending in the application, of which claims 5, 6 and 14 have been allowed.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-13 and 15-26 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 19 and 20 have been amended.

Claim 24 has been cancelled.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-13, 15-23 and 25-26 in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-13 and 15-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subbiah, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,961), in view of Westberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,054).

During the March 13, 2006 telephone interview, the Examiner agreed that the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed tunnel header configured so that a packet-switched network device routing or forwarding packets according to a network address does not reference the tunnel packet payload. The Examiner did however note that there would be further review. Applicant thanks the Examiner for offering to call the undersigned Attorney at (503) 276-4842, if additional claim amendments are recommended after the further review.

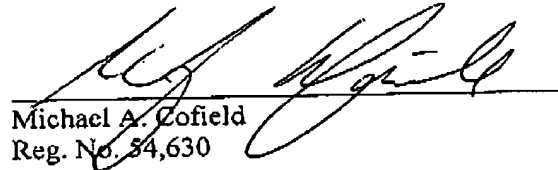
Claim 1 has been amended according to the proposed amendment that was discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview. For example, claim 1 teaches the element of "wherein the tunnel header is configured so that a packet-switched network device routing or forwarding packets according to a network address does not reference the tunnel packet payload." Support for the claimed feature is shown in Fig. 4 of the present application. One advantage of the claimed tunnel header is that, for example, "an IP router is not burdened with any additional processing..." See, page 7, lines 11-18. Claims 8, 10, 14, 19 and 20 have been similarly amended. Claim 24 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 276-4842 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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